

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing a distributed data processing
5 system, the method comprising:

configuring monitoring parameters for network
interface cards within the distributed data processing
system using a network management framework;

10 dynamically discovering endpoints within the
distributed data processing system;

determining that a device within the distributed
data processing system has at least a first discovered
endpoint representing a first network interface card and
a second discovered endpoint representing a second
15 network interface card; and

assigning a mission criticality characteristic to
each discovered endpoint.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
20 configuring monitoring parameters further comprises:

designating each of a plurality of network interface
cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of
the plurality of network interface cards is a twin
network interface card that is to be used for monitoring
25 an associated network interface card; and

designating each of a plurality of network interface
cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of
the plurality of network interface cards is not to be
used for monitoring.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of assigning a mission criticality characteristic to each discovered endpoint further comprises:

in response to a determination that the first
5 discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the first discovered endpoint corresponds to a twin network interface card, specifying that the first discovered endpoint is mission critical twin endpoint;
and

10 in response to a determination that the second discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the second discovered endpoint is not to be used for monitoring, specifying that the second discovered endpoint is mission critical endpoint.

15 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

monitoring discovered endpoints using the network management framework.

20 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

in response to a determination that a discovered endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, determining whether the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint;

25 in response to a determination that the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint, performing a polling operation on the mission critical twin endpoint; and

30 updating a status indication parameter for the mission critical twin endpoint.

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6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

determining whether the mission critical endpoint
can be polled;

5 in response to a determination that the mission
critical endpoint can be polled, performing a polling
operation on the mission critical endpoint; and

updating a status indication parameter for the
mission critical endpoint.

10 7. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

receiving a request for an action on a target
endpoint within the network management framework.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

15 in response to a determination that the target
endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, determining
whether the target endpoint is associated with a mission
critical twin endpoint; and

20 in response to a determination that the target
endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin
endpoint, rerouting the request for the action to the
mission critical twin endpoint.

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9. An apparatus for managing a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

configuring means for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

discovering means for dynamically discovering endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

first determining means for determining that a device within the distributed data processing system has at least a first discovered endpoint representing a first network interface card and a second discovered endpoint representing a second network interface card; and

assigning means for assigning a mission criticality characteristic to each discovered endpoint.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the configuring means further comprises:

first designating means for designating each of a plurality of network interface cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of the plurality of network interface cards is a twin network interface card that is to be used for monitoring an associated network interface card; and

second designating means for designating each of a plurality of network interface cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of the plurality of network interface cards is not to be used for monitoring.

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11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the assigning means further comprises:

first specifying means for specifying, in response to a determination that the first discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the first discovered endpoint corresponds to a twin network interface card, that the first discovered endpoint is mission critical twin endpoint; and

second specifying means for specifying, in response to a determination that the second discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the second discovered endpoint is not to be used for monitoring, that the second discovered endpoint is mission critical endpoint.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring discovered endpoints using the network management framework.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

second determining means for determining, in response to a determination that a discovered endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, whether the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint;

first performing means for performing, in response to a determination that the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint, a polling operation on the mission critical twin endpoint;

first updating means for updating a status indication parameter for the mission critical twin endpoint.

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14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

third determining means for determining whether the mission critical endpoint can be polled;

5 second performing means for performing in response to a determination that the mission critical endpoint can be polled, a polling operation on the mission critical endpoint; and

10 second updating means for updating a status indication parameter for the mission critical endpoint.

15. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

15 receiving means for receiving a request for an action on a target endpoint within the network management framework.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

20 fourth determining means for determining, in response to a determination that the target endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, whether the target endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint; and

25 rerouting means for rerouting, in response to a determination that the target endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint, the request for the action to the mission critical twin endpoint.

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17. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for managing the distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;
 instructions for dynamically discovering endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

10 instructions for determining that a device within the distributed data processing system has at least a first discovered endpoint representing a first network interface card and a second discovered endpoint representing a second network interface card; and

15 instructions for assigning a mission criticality characteristic to each discovered endpoint.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the instructions for configuring monitoring parameters further comprises:

20 instructions for designating each of a plurality of network interface cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of the plurality of network interface cards is a twin network interface card that is
25 to be used for monitoring an associated network interface card; and

 instructions for designating each of a plurality of network interface cards with a monitoring parameter indicating that each of the plurality of network
30 interface cards is not to be used for monitoring.

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19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the instructions for assigning a mission criticality characteristic to each discovered endpoint further comprises:

5 instructions for specifying, in response to a determination that the first discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the first discovered endpoint corresponds to a twin network interface card, that the first discovered endpoint is mission critical
10 twin endpoint; and

instructions for specifying, in response to a determination that the second discovered endpoint has a monitoring parameter indicating that the second
15 discovered endpoint is not to be used for monitoring, that the second discovered endpoint is mission critical endpoint.

20. The computer program product of claim 19 further comprising:

20 instructions for monitoring discovered endpoints using the network management framework.

21. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:

25 instructions for determining, in response to a determination that a discovered endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, whether the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint;

30 instructions for performing, in response to a determination that the mission critical endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint, a polling operation on the mission critical twin endpoint;

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and

instructions for updating a status indication parameter for the mission critical twin endpoint.

- 5 22. The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:

instructions for determining whether the mission critical endpoint can be polled;

- 10 instructions for performing, in response to a determination that the mission critical endpoint can be polled, a polling operation on the mission critical endpoint; and

instructions for updating a status indication parameter for the mission critical endpoint.

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23. The computer program product of claim 19 further comprising:

- 20 instructions for receiving a request for an action on a target endpoint within the network management framework.

24. The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising:

- 25 instructions for determining, in response to a determination that the target endpoint is a mission critical endpoint, whether the target endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint; and

- 30 instructions for rerouting, in response to a determination that the target endpoint is associated with a mission critical twin endpoint, the request for the action to the mission critical twin endpoint.